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学汉语指南

Guideline of Learning Chinese

CHINESE





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1. Why to learn Chinese

China is playing an increasingly important role in world economic and cultural exchanges, as former British Prime Minister Tony Blair said: ***if you do not understand China, you cannot keep up with the future world.*** The most effective way to understand China is to understand the Chinese language.

China is one of the four great ancient civilizations, has a long and splendid culture, Chinese is more extensive and profound, vocabulary is rich, to express delicate feelings, many outstanding literary works in Chinese writing. Master Chinese is just master the splendid Chinese culture. Chinese and other Asian languages are closely related, such as Japanese, Korean, etc. Therefore, mastering Chinese is also important for learning other languages.

Learning Chinese and mastering Chinese is an inevitable trend of economic globalization and an irresistible trend.

1, Chinese is Most Widely Spoken Languages in the World

Chinese is the most widely spoken language in the world with approximately 1.6 billion people worldwide use Chinese, according to the United Nations, therefore 25% of the global population speaking Chinese. In addition, Chinese is one of the six working languages of the United Nations; Thus if you can speak Chinese, it means you can communicate with 1/4 of the world's people.

As well as China, Mandarin is spoken in countries such as Malaysia, Taiwan, Singapore, Indonesia, Thailand, Brunei, Philippines, and Mongolia so if you do business in these regions then it would be beneficial to converse in their language.

Moreover, some of the major countries are planning to train millions of Chinese speakers in next three years, such as the United States, Russia, Britain and so on.

2, Learn Chinese, Know China

China is one of the oldest and richest cultures in the world. It has a history of more than 5,000 years. In the past thousands of years, China is the world's most powerful country, the ancient science and technology is highly developed, had made significant contributions to the development of human, eg, paper and gunpowder was invented by ancient Chinese.

1) China's land area is now the third largest in the world, with 9.6 million square kilometers, there are all kinds of natural landscape, historical





relics, ancient buildings and so on. There are many beautiful natural sceneries, which are well worth visiting.

2) There are 56 ethnic groups in China, each of which has its own characteristics and different living habits. But through thousands of years of national integration, a very unified identity of the identity has been formed. In time, religions are very harmonious in China, and there is almost no religious conflict.

3) Chinese food is more popular around the world with the Eight Great Cuisines and different flavors, some delicious food is waiting for you to taste.

"The Chinese eat everything with four legs, except tables, and everything that flies, except airplanes." - Anon

4) Contemporary China, China is not only a traditional agricultural country but is also about to become a technology power country. The economy will soon become the world's first one, the R&D cost is the second in the world, and the patent number is the first in 2016 (40% of the global total). Although China is still a developing country in terms of per capita income, certainly China will be among the developed countries in the next 20 to 30 years with the current trend.

3, Great opportunities for China's economy

There is no international company to give up in the face of market opportunities for 1.3 billion people. China's economic growth has entered a new era, and it is still growing at more than 6 percent a year. While the high-speed rail, the respect such as the Internet, mobile payment has reached the forefront of the world, but still exists between regional, industry, the contradiction of the imbalance also has the problem of insufficient development in many ways.

There are also many industries that require high-quality products to meet the needs of the people, also known as consumption upgrades. In the United States and Europe, developed countries already have very mature products, if we can open the Chinese market early, that would be a huge market opportunity. At the same time, for developing countries, China is building a One Belt And One Road economic development plan, which is also a rare opportunity for cooperation.

In 2017, 130 million Chinese citizens have traveled abroad, spending \$115.29 billion. If you can speak Chinese, you may be able to reception Chinese tourists in your hometown, which is also a business opportunity.

So if we learn Chinese well, we will have a chance to participate in these opportunities.





4, International job

International companies are more likely to hire people who speak multiple languages.

China has become a huge market, and business leaders are looking for people who can speak Chinese and operate successfully in Chinese culture.

When you apply for an important position, the skill of Chinese language may bring you some advantages.

China will play an important role in future world affairs. As China becomes more and more open, we face more and more job opportunities.

5, While is it difficult to learn Chinese?

It's not that hard. There are only 3,500 commonly used Chinese characters, Chinese characters have a strong combination of words, we don't have to create new words for new information. While English is the opposite, the new vocabulary has little to do with the original words, and the English language has about one to twenty thousand new words created per year.

Every language has its own characteristics, as long as we find these characteristics, learning Chinese becomes easier.

2. Easy to Learn Chinese

7 Fast Processes to Learn Chinese Well





Every language has its own characteristics, especially for the Chinese language, the Chinese character is the only ideographic text in the world, if you don't know this word, you can't pronounce. This is also why Chinese beginners feel it is not easy, actually, Chinese is easy if you know these facts.

1, Phonetic Characters and Ideographic Characters

Phonetic Characters is the word only for pronunciation, you may pronounce the word while you do not know what the meaning is, such as English (all languages except for Chinese). So we would feel it is easy to learn a language of Phonetic Characters, even we do not know what the meaning is, but we still can pronounce it.

Ideographic Characters is the word only for meaning, you definitely will not pronounce the word if you do not learn. Thus, we might feel unsafe and even fearful, so we think it is terrible, and determine it is hard to learning. While even we may not know how to pronounce the Ideographic Characters, we still guess the meaning from the components. So we know the Chinese language is easy to learn after we know these components, right? Eg, the component of "木" = tree, "林" = some trees, "森" = many trees (forest), it is very easy, right? Of course, there are several ways to make Chinese characters, we need further study.

2, The pronunciation of Chinese Characters

Chinese is the only language in the world with four tones, another only one, that is another reason we feel Chinese is not easy. If we want to pronounce correctly, we must learn the 4 tones well. The pronunciation of Chinese is 3~7 times that of English. Mandarin has 20 initials, 39 finals, and 4 tones, and can be used for 2, 500 sounds, often with 1,200 sounds. Different tones, the corresponding Chinese characters may be completely different, for example, "妈 mā" = mom, "麻 má" = fiber, "马 mǎ" = horse, "骂 mà" = scold. Therefore, the beginners must master the tone and pay special attention to pronunciation. When we know that pronunciation is so important to learning Chinese, we just need to learn well foundation course. We take a little more time to get started, and then it gets easier. (It is best to start with a professional teacher)

3, The Chinese Characters

The Chinese characters are few (3,500 daily words), and it is very flexible to combine words.

Now, the number of English words has exceeded 1 million, and the average person can never remember it. According to the New York Times, there are between 10,000 and 20,000 new words per year. While in Chinese, we don't have to make new words, just by using the existing





Chinese characters. And all English words and new words can be expressed in 3,500 Chinese characters.

The study of Chinese characters must understand the meaning of the radicals, as mentioned above, which can be used to induce the Chinese characters to study together. After mastering 1500 Chinese characters (HSK4 or above), I will have the ability to learn by myself, which makes my learning easier in the future.

4, China's Dialects

Every country has dialects and there are many dialects in China. We need to learn Mandarin Chinese so that all Chinese people can understand it. In addition, Chinese teachers generally have the certificate of Mandarin test.

There are also some students who need to learn Cantonese, but very few, Cantonese pronunciation and mandarin are completely different, many Chinese people cannot understand Cantonese.

Other dialects do not recommend learning unless you have learned Mandarin well.

5, Chinese grammar

Chinese grammar is very simple, no verb change, no plural Nouns, no gender of Nouns, etc.

6, All in All

Learning Chinese is not easy at first, and it will be easier in the future. In the early stage, we need to learn pronunciation and listening well. In the medium term, we should strengthen the reading and write Chinese characters. If we persist in learning, we will be able to master Chinese (HSK6 highest Chinese level) in 3~5 years.

3. How long to learn Chinese

Chinese is not easy for beginners, we need to learn more learning skills and guidance at the beginning, while when we are in the intermediate level, it will become more and easier. After mastering 1500 words, we will have the self-learning ability, which takes about 1~2 years. Generally speaking, to reach fluent Chinese level, the European and American students need 3 ~ 5 years, while those students in Chinese Culture Circle need about 2 ~3 years. What are the key facts for beginners?

1, Speaking and listening are very important for beginners, we can listen to Chinese music, sing Chinese songs, watch bilingual Chinese TV





programs. Although not very clear the meanings, it is very helpful for the cultivation of language sense.

2, Read aloud, speak bravely and don't be shy. It is natural to speak wrong.

3, Practice pronunciation with professional Chinese teachers and strengthen the practice of tones. The tone of Chinese is wrong, the meaning is completely different.

4, Recite some texts, words and short daily sentences.

5, Participate in some activities of Chinese culture or visit China in person to enhance perceptual knowledge. Learning will be easier after you experience it yourself.

6, Know some Chinese friends and practice speaking with them.

7, Insist on, after 1~2 years, you will find that your Chinese level has been greatly improved. And the future learning will become relatively easy, at the same time we will have self-learning method.

8, Taking the exam of the HSK4 level, we have learned 1,200 Chinese words after 1~2 years of study. We can pass the HSK4 level definitely through the pre-examination training. Taking an examination is a recognition of oneself and a systematic arrangement of the previous knowledge through examination. After passing the exam, we will feel more satisfied and have more confidence in our future study.

4. How to learn Chinese effectively

How to learn Chinese effectively? Since Chinese language itself has many characteristics, it is very different from English and other languages. In general, when learning Chinese, it is not easy to learn at the beginning. The Chinese language is very different from our native language, and Chinese characters is a big challenge.

For this topic, first of all, we should know our goal of learning, which means that we should have a learning plan or learning expectation before the start, and different learning goal different learning methods. Generally speaking, we need:

1, Determine the learning goals and choose the appropriate textbook.





For example, we want to learn life Chinese, business Chinese, medical Chinese, Chinese proficiency test or other special Chinese. The vocabulary in each domain is different, the learning materials and the content are different, and the final goal is different.

2, Choose the right teacher

The Chinese teacher divides 3 types, we should choose one according to own learning goals. For example, oral communication partners, tutors, and professional teachers. If we only want to speak some basic spoken language, find an oral native partner, and if you want to learn Chinese systematic, we will have to find a professional Chinese teacher.

3, Learning progress

In the past, we have introduced the characteristics of Chinese, and it is not easy to learn for beginners. The early learning is very important, and the basic pronunciation is more important, so don't worry when we start, we can even learn the basic courses twice. Basic knowledge and pronunciation must be learned well, which is very very important for Chinese learning.

4, Learning focus

It is also due to the characteristics of Chinese and the special features of Chinese characters. So for beginners, we can focus on listening and speaking. For middle and senior students, we need to supplement the reading and writing. In addition, for children, when they start to learn Chinese, they can learn by listening, speaking, reading and writing comprehensively.

5. How to find online materials to learn Chinese

1, CCHATTY - A market for learning and teaching Chinese online

Now the Internet is very developed, we can find a lot of very good learning materials in the network. Here, we will focus on our one-stop foreign language platform, CCHATTY.

CCHATTY is a free market for online Chinese, linking students with Chinese teachers. CCHATTY is the most professional Chinese language learning platform. It is a one-stop learning platform for Chinese learning. Here, easy to learn Chinese and happy to make friends.

- 1) Provide Chinese teaching and learning services.
- 2) Provide Chinese teaching courseware downloading in PDF (free/paid)





- 3) Provide network community BBS and social network function.
- 4) Provide articles about China and learn Chinese
- 5) Provide 21 CSP Chinese courses for students to learn Chinese language knowledge in various professional fields.

For students:

- 1) We can find and choose any of teachers according to your favorite.
- 2) We can check the teaching experience, grade, certificate of teaching and others.
- 3) We can pay the fee at once by once, without paying a lot of money at one time.
- 4) We can pay to the teacher only after you are satisfied/confirmed with your course.
- 5) We can schedule your time according to your own time.
- 6) We can practice your writing skill and any learning questions, and there will be answered by professional Chinese teachers.

For teachers:

- 1) We can post your own courses.
- 2) You can set your own course time.
- 3) You can sell your own teaching courseware.
- 4) We can define our expenses according to our own level.
- 5) You may apply for the global job as a Chinese teacher in the future.

2, 6 Best apps Learn Chinese

Best apps Learn Chinese – CHINESESKILL, Pleco, Memrise, FluentU, Hello HSK, and DU CHINESE.

- 1) CHINESESKILL –Learn Chinese is just like play games - FREE

CHINESESKILL is a likely game application for Chinese language learning, the overall system is similar with Duolingo, it lets the user in the “test” at the same time while learning knowledge, at the same time strengthen memory.

- 2) PLECO –The best Chinese dictionary - PART FREE

Pleco is the ultimate Chinese partner – integrated dictionary/document reader/word card system, support full-screen handwriting input and real-time OCR function, product company since 2001 has been





committed to the development of the world's best mobile Chinese learning applications.

3) MEMRISE - Learn Chinese with Flashcard - PART FREE

Memrise is founded by Cooke the memory of the master and Dr. Greg Detre of neuroscience at Princeton University.

The teaching characteristic of Memrise is the study and test must be combined, namely make the memory graph crowdsourcing to community members, and then reuse online courses taught to the user. GIF animation is one of the memories in the form of graphics. The aim is to help you quickly and without pain to learn and learn to become a leisure activity.

Of course, there are many resources on learning Chinese, like the words, short sentence, HSK, reading skills and others.

4) FLUENT U – Learn Chinese with videos - NO FREE

FluentU is to teach people to learn different languages with a professor video. Users can watch the different scenario video with the real world to learn Chinese, German, Japanese, and English and so on.

The biggest obstacle to learning a language is that we learned a language but we cannot be applied to a normal life. The most reasonable way is learning just with daily life together. Through all sorts of music, video, movie trailers, such as news and inspiring lecture video to strengthen language ability. Which is one of the fastest way to learn a language?

5) HELLO HSK – HSK TEST APP -PART FREE

Hello HSK course is for students who want to pass Chinese proficiency test (HSK) test. Courses include a set of unique classification learning system. There are 30 sets of simulated tests as well as 60 sets of past exam papers.

According to the purpose of HSK Test "to promote teaching through test", Hello HSK has combined frequently tested content with daily expressions, and reorganized and re-edited them in terms of 9 dimensions, including degrees of difficulty, type, question type, scenario and function etc, which have finally formed a unique classification method.

6) DU CHINESE – Chinese READING APP - PART FREE

Du Chinese is a revolutionary Mandarin reading app that lets you quickly look up the translation of any word or sentence with a simple tap. The lessons include English translations of both words, sentences, and have full human voice recordings, which are synchronized with the text. The word translation is context-dependent to give you the word is meaning in the current sentence.





Du Chinese contains lessons of difficulties ranging from newbie to master, and new lessons are added frequently. The lessons cover topics like everyday life in China, business, and the latest trends in China.

3, Chinese input software

Many people now practice writing Chinese characters on their computers. and the HSK test also has a computer test. There are many ways to input Chinese characters. In general, the popular one is Pinyin input method, which means you can input Chinese characters if you can read them.

There is also the radicals input method, such input method, which needs to be written to input Chinese characters on the computer, which is difficult, most Chinese people do not use this type of input method.

Pinyin input method is one of the most popular clouds Sogou input method, it has a Lenovo input function, the fuzzy input function and there is a very rich thesaurus, if after you register, your own word library and common words are saved in the cloud, multiple devices can be in sync. In addition, Sogou input method also has a mobile version, mobile version and voice input mode. Computers and mobile phones are free, more than 84 percent of Chinese use this input software.

<https://pinyin.sogou.com/>

4, Translation Software

Youdao translation software with online versions, PC version, and mobile version, in addition, to supporting Chinese and English translation, also support Chinese and Japanese, Korean, French, Spanish and Russian. The translation accuracy of the software is relatively high, and it is free, which is a good helper for learning Chinese.

<http://fanyi.youdao.com/>

5, HSK, Chinese Proficiency Test (Hanyu Shuiping Kaoshi)

HSK's official website, which includes test time arrangements, test information, online testing, online registration, score checking and other information related to the HSK test.

<http://www.chinesetest.cn>

6, Chinese textbook

Beijing Language and Culture University is the best Chinese learning university in China. It publishes a variety of Chinese language learning books every year, and its online bookstore can also provide global express service.

<http://www.blcup.com/EnPList/ListPro>





6. How to choose Chinese textbooks

There are more than 12,000 Chinese textbooks in the global market, how to find and choose one? Of course, we could find some on Amazon and online stores. Here, introduce some popular textbook for different goals.

1, Short-term Chinese learning (3 months)

"Conversational Chinese 301" is intended to be an intensive course book for foreigners who have just started to learn Chinese. This book consists of 40 lessons and 8 reviews. The 40 lessons encompass nearly 30 communicative functions such as "Greeting" and "Making an Acquaintance", about 800 new words and the fundamentals of Chinese grammar. The first press is from 1990 years, till to now revised 3 times and still very popular.

2, Primary and intermediate Chinese oral (6 months ~ 12 months)

"Short-Term Spoken Chinese" is widely used short-term oral Chinese learning textbook, it includes 5 levels from Threshold, Elementary, Pre-Intermediate, Intermediate to Advanced. Threshold and Elementary level are very good for beginners while other levels are not comprehensive. The first press is in 1999 years, till to now revised 3 times, and popular in the short-term oral textbook.

3, Comprehensive textbook (12 months~36 months)

"Developing Chinese" is a new textbook for comprehensive Chinese, it includes 28 volumes with altogether 34 books, from elementary to advanced level, including of comprehensive, listening, speaking, reading, and writing. The content of the book is very rich, the exercises are also abundant, and the topics are relatively new, it is very suitable for long-term Chinese learners. The whole set has made some new attempts to diversify the language styles and registers, to systemize and specialize language elements, language knowledge and the training of language skills, to reveal the rich and varied social life in modern China.

4, Business Chinese (12 months ~ 36 months)

"Winning in China", this set of textbooks consists of 3 volumes: Basic, Intermediate and Advanced. The volume of Basic is further divided into 3 books, accompanied by another book, Pronunciation and Chinese Characters, to reinforce the teaching of Chinese pronunciation and Chinese characters. It is suitable for the Foreign -China Managers Exchange and Training Programme takers and other learners of business Chinese without any Chinese learning experience. It features a wide range of topics, information, and exercises and attaches equal importance to both practices in language structures and business communications.





5, Medical Chinese (24 months ~ 60 months)

"Practical Medical Chinese" is intended to traditional Chinese medicine, consists of 3 volumes: Elementary, Preclinical, and Clinical, there are 4 books in each volume, 12 books in all. The content of the textbook contains not only Chinese learning, but also much medical professional knowledge.

6, Children Chinese (Primary to Middle Schools)

"Easy Steps to Chinese" includes 8 books and has 3 stages: stage 1 – books 1 and 2, stage 2 – book 3, 4, 5 and 6; and stage 3 – book 7 and 8. The primary goal of this series Easy Steps to Chinese is to help the students establish a solid foundation vocabulary, knowledge of Chinese and communication skills through the natural and gradual integration of language, content, and cultural elements. This series adopts a holistic approach and is designed to emphasize the development of communication skills in listening, speaking, reading and writing.

7, HSK test (Chinese proficiency test)

"Analyses of HSK Official Examination Papers Level 1 ~ 6", to prepare for HSK test, first one we need some past/mock test paper to exercise our answer skills. The book offers a complete and thorough analysis of HSK Official Examination Papers (2014) and provides different solutions to the various forms of test questions. In particular, each writing exercises is accompanied by several versions of sample passages so as to help exam-takers better understand the question and pass the examination. Moreover, the book is aimed at enhancing the language skills of Chinese learners through its summary of some key vocabulary and grammar points. HSK tutors can also use this book for reference.

"Frequency-based HSK Vocabulary", The Frequency-based HSK Vocabulary series consists of four volumes: Levels 1-3, Level 4, Level 5 and Level 6. These are compiled based on the Chinese Proficiency Test Syllabus and contain a full list of required vocabulary. The vocabulary is ordered by their frequency in the test and divided into four categories: super-high frequency, high frequency, low frequency and zero frequency. Sample sentences are based on the HSK test papers to help students gain a better understanding of the test points and focus more on key and difficult vocabulary. Appendix:

Sinolingua online bookstore: <http://en.sinolingua.com.cn/>

Beijing Language University online bookstore: <http://www.blcup.com>





7. How to choose a professional Chinese teacher

If we are a beginner in Chinese learning, we had to choose a professional Chinese teacher so that our study will be more effective. At the same time, before we study, we should also clarify our learning objectives. In general, these learning objectives are:

1. if we just want to learn some spoken Chinese and know some basic Chinese knowledge. We can find a language partner and exchange languages with each other.

A) Pros: No cost, very flexible learning time, make some friends.

B) Cons: There is no learning method, the learning effect is not high, and it is likely to give up.

2. To achieve a certain level of Chinese, there are clear learning goals, such as basic 100 dialogues in Chinese. It is necessary to find a teacher with some tutor experience teacher, the teacher lack professional skills but full of enthusiasm.

A) Pros: We have short-term goals and achieve part of targets, the cost is cheap

B) Cons: There are all kinds of difficulties that can be encountered in a step-by-step learning process, and it is likely to learn more and more difficult.

3. The purpose of learning is very clear. We have found some materials before learning and even know some basic Chinese knowledge. This requires professional Chinese teachers to provide learning methods, learning materials and medium, long-term learning plans.

A) Pros: With clear goals, it is easiest to achieve learning results, and it is most helpful for systematic learn Chinese.

B) Cons: It is not easy to find suitable professional teachers, the cost is higher.

There are three types of Chinese teachers to choose from.

1, Language partner, because it is a partner, so it is more casual, the teacher is a Chinese native, but not necessarily good learning method. Because the learning goal is to know some basic Chinese, so long as the teacher is stable, Chinese pronunciation standard, foreign language





fluency will be ok.

2. Some teachers with Chinese teaching experience may not have received professional training, but they have a better understanding of Chinese teaching, but there is no good teaching skill.

We hope that this kind of teacher will be stable, responsible, enthusiastic, mandarin pronunciation standard, and can find ways to solve the needs of Chinese learners.

3. The third type of Chinese teacher is a professional Chinese teacher. It is not easy for us to judge the level of such teachers, and we are sorry to ask for certificates. So in general, we look for these teachers through third-party platforms. Teaching Chinese is not difficult while teaching Chinese well is not easy. In addition to requiring such teachers to have professional knowledge and qualifications, we can also judge the level of the teacher from the following points.

1) in class, there are few foreign languages used, and Chinese teaching has methods. It is not necessary to explain the Chinese in a foreign language. If the teacher uses many foreign languages to explain Chinese, it means that the teacher has not enough Chinese teaching skills, she is just a good translator but not a teacher.

2) the classroom atmosphere is pleasant, and the teacher will often use interesting examples to make the class atmosphere lively. This shows that the teacher has abundant teaching experience, besides theoretical knowledge, she also knows how to skillfully apply this theoretical knowledge to the actual classroom.

3) be patient. It shows that the teacher knows all levels of students and knows how to guide the students to learn.

4) learning content is close to life. It shows that the teacher has prepared before the lesson and designed the learning content and lesson time in advance. This can best reflect the quality of professional teachers.

5) proper dress, professional teachers will care about their teachers' image and will not dress casually.

6) whether to know the culture of some students' country is also the basic requirement of professional teachers.

7) in short, the more professional teachers are, the more they know how to make students learn easier.





8. How to learn Chinese pronunciation

As long as we master the Chinese pronunciation skills, Chinese pronunciation becomes easier.

Chinese is an Ideographic Characters (only Chinese), and Chinese pronunciation is different. Therefore, students in many countries begin to feel that Chinese is so different. In fact is not the case, the hard part is only Chinese is Ideographic Characters before we are familiar with Phonetic Characters (English and all another language), now when we see the Ideographic Characters, our first feeling was so terrible that it was hard to feel in our hearts. Well, not really.

1, Master the Pinyin

Let's talk about the rules of Chinese pronunciation, which is the rule of Pinyin. The history of Pinyin is not long, and it has been promoted in China since 1955 and it is also a phonetic symbol for the Chinese government to promote the pronunciation of Chinese. So mastering Pinyin also mastering the pronunciation of Chinese characters.

1) Initials and finals

Chinese pinyin has 20 initials and 39 finals. A Chinese syllable is usually composed of an initial and a final. The former is a consonant that begins the syllable and the latter is the rest of the syllable.

2) Tones

Tones are changes of the pitch of syllables. In the standard Chinese there are four basic tones, represented respectively by the following tone-graphs: the first tone (→), the second tone (↗), the third tone (↘↗) and the fourth tone (↘). When a syllable is pronounced in different tones, it has different meanings. Eg,

(妮 girl) nī = n + i, (n) + (i) + (→)

(泥 mud) ní = n + i, (n) + (i) + (↗)

(你 you) nǐ = n + i, (n) + (i) + (↘↗)

(逆 opposite) nì = n + i, (n) + (i) + (↘)

3) Tone position

When a syllable contains a single vowel only, the tone-mark is placed above the vowel sound. eg "nī".

When a syllable contains two or more vowel, the tone-make should be placed above the main vowel (the one pronounced more loudly and clearly), eg "mā", "hǎo", "zuò".





When a tone-mark is placed above the vowel "i", the dot over it should be omitted, eg: "mì", "jǐng".

When "iu" or "ui" comes, the tone-mark should be placed above the terminal vowel, eg, "liú", "guǐ".

4) Neutral tone

In standard Chinese pronunciation, there are a number of syllables that lose their original tones and are pronounced soft and short. This is known as the neutral tone which is identified by the absence of a tone mark, eg. "xiè xie", "bú kèqi". (谢谢, xiè xie, thanks) (不客气, bú kèqi, you are welcome)

2, Speaking fluently some simple daily sentence

- 1) 你好(nǐ hǎo)! Hello!
- 2) 再见(zài jiàn)! Goodbye!
- 3) 谢谢(xiè xie)! Thanks!
- 4) 不客气(bú kèqi)! You are welcome!
- 5) 对不起(duì buqǐ)! I am sorry!
- 6) 没关系(méi guānxi)! Does not mention it!
- 7) 认识你很高兴(rèn shí nǐ hěn gāoxìng)! I am pleased to meet you!
- 8) 我叫桑德兰(wǒ jiào sāng dé lán)。 My name is Sandra.
- 9) 我会说英语(wǒ huì shuō yīngyǔ)。 I can speak English.
- 10) 我是奥地利人(wǒ shì àodìlì rén)。 I am Austrian.

3, Speaking and listening are inseparable

We can record our own and then listen carefully. Then, compare with the correct pronunciation and correct our pronunciation. Or, if we have a Chinese teacher, that's even better, so that when we study, the teacher will help us to correct the sound. Furthermore, there are several points:

1) when we learn to pronounce, we are often influenced by our own mother tongue. Some of the sounds are not pronounced because we have not been heard before. In this case, we don't have to worry about the pronunciations all the time, yet we can correct them later. In other words, the correct pronunciation is accompanied by the long-term learning process, which is always going to be carried out. Even when we learn Chinese to advanced level, there is a process of correcting, so don't worry





too much, don't worry, just step by step, a little bit of correction.

2) Practicing oral Chinese also requires a lot of listening practice so it would be great if we Chinese teacher could only speak Chinese in class. Such a language environment can help us improve our listening and speaking skills faster. Do not listen to the difficult material when practicing listening, such as watching Chinese TV dramas, do not suggest doing such exercises. Not only is it not helpful for listening, but it can also be frustrating. And the words used in the TV series are different from the words used in daily life. Do not apply. On the contrary, this is highly recommended if we have some video materials that are comparable to our level and are targeted at Chinese learning.

3) We can find some simple Chinese songs with music melody, which is especially helpful for the sense of language.

4) We can find a professional Chinese teacher to guide our pronunciation.

9. How to learn Chinese Characters

Chinese characters, which have a history of more than 3,000 years, are very ancient and are the only Ideographic Characters used in the world. Other words are Phonetic Characters. Ideographic Character is a kind of writing system that uses symbolic symbols to record words or morphemes, not directly or simply to express syllables.

The key to learning Chinese Characters is to understand the characters of Ideographic Characters and the meaning of each symbol. If you master the rules of Ideographic Characters, Chinese characters are very easy.

In addition, as we mentioned in "easy to learn Chinese", there are only 3,500 Chinese words in the daily life, and it is very flexible to combine new words. So there is no need to create many new words for new things. Compared with English, this kind of Phonetic Characters had to create new words for new things, it is the reason why 10,000 ~ 20, 000 new English words created every year, which brings a lot of difficulties to English learning.

When we learn Phonetic Characters, it is easy to start, and then it gets harder. On the contrary, when we learn Ideographic Characters, it is hard to start, and then it gets easier.





How to learn Chinese Characters? Let us start with the very simple example

1 “木” = tree

2 “木” trees = “林” woods, one tree is a tree, two trees together, we have the woods.

3 “木” trees = “森” forest, three trees together, we create the forest.

1 “火” = fire

2 “火” = “炎” really hot, two fires together, we get really hot.

3 “火” = “焱” flames, three fires together, that's a lot of flames.

“林” woods + “火” fire = “焚” burning, set the fire underneath the two trees, it's burning.

1 “日” = sun, for us, the sun is the source of prosperity.

2 “日” sun = “昌” prosperous, two suns together, prosperous.

3 “日” sun = “晶” sparkles, three together, that's sparkles.

“日” sun + “月” moon = “明” brightness, put the sun and the moon shining together, it's brightness.

“日” sun + “月” moon = “明” tomorrow, It also means tomorrow, after a day and a night.

“日” sun + “一” horizon = “旦” sunrise, the sun is coming up above the horizon, it is sunrise.

1, Radicals of Chinese Characters,

Consequently, the first thing we need to know is what these basic symbols mean, the radicals of Chinese Characters. That's very important. There are totally 267 radicals and 48 common radicals. Eg:

氵, water-related, 河 = rivers, 湖 = lakes, 海 = sea

钅, metal related, 针 = needle, 铁 = iron, 钢 = steel

疒, ill related, 病 = disease, 疼 = pain, 癌 = cancer

衤, clothes related, 衬 = sark, 衫 = shirt, 被 = quilt

足, foot related, 路 = road, 跑 = run, 距 = distance

犬, dog related, 吠 = bark, 哭 = cry, 状 = indict

羊, sheep-related: 咩 = baa, 羚 = antelope, 群 = crowd

皿, utensil related: 盒 = box, 盆 = pot, 盂 = jar



A red wall with a traditional Chinese architectural style, featuring a green roof and flying birds.



- 2, Rightward stroke first, and then Falling rightwards. Eg: 十 王 干
- 3, Top first, and then the bottom. Eg: 三 竟 音
- 4, Left first, and then right. Eg: 理 利 礼 明 湖
- 5, Outside first, and then inside. Eg: 问 同 司
- 6, Outside first, and then inside, seal last. Eg: 国 圆 园 圈
- 7, Middle first, and then both side. Eg: 小 水

3, 4 principles of creating the Chinese Characters

The formation of character refers to the method to create the Chinese characters. Generally speaking, the Ancient Chinese method of creation there are four categories: Hieroglyphic (shape), self-explanatory (mean), Associative (knowing), and Pictophonetic (mean + pronunciation). The current compared with the ancient Chinese characters, and there are some special cases.

1) Hieroglyphic Characters(象形), this creation method is closer to the picture, but complex things, abstract concept can't pictograph, so rely on pictograph can create very few characters, but it is the basis of the formation of Chinese characters. Such as sun, moon, mountain, water and so on, the first is the picture of the sun, moon, mountain, and water gradually evolved into the present shape.

The melon is a pictograph. In the word "melon", the two left-falling stroke means the vine, the middle vertical hook represents the melon, and the right-falling stroke represents the leaf. The term "Cucurbitaceae" is the meaning of "melon".(瓜) In real life, there are many things like melon shape, for example, a "melon cap" is a kind of hat; A watermelon boat is a kind of ship; "Like cut the melon," the fate of the melon is to be divided, which leads to the meaning. People use "divide" to mean partition or distribution. Also refers to a number of great powers united to divide the land of weak or underdeveloped countries.

2) Self-explanatory Characters(指事), The way to form a character using symbols to indicate the character's meaning is called " Self-explanatory Characters(指事) ". There are two types of indication: one is purely symbolic, e.g. shorter horizontal over a longer means "上(up)", and the opposite means "下(down)";the other type is to add a symbol to hieroglyphic characters, e.g. adding a "一" to "木", if up means the end of a tree(末), if down means the root of a tree(本). Here, the "一" is not numeric. For instance, a knife (刀) with an additional dot indicates where the blade is. The left and right in "人" indicate armpits. The dots here are all indication symbol.





3) Associative Characters(会意), Characters formed with two or more independent characters to indicate a new meaning are called Associative Characters(会意). For instance, "人(people)"(or"亻")leaning against "木(tree)" means "休(to rest)"; two footprints by water"水"(or"氵")means "涉(to wade)";the combination of "鸟(bird)" and "口(mouth, beak)" means "鸣(chirp)";"宀"(house)with "火(fire)" inside means "灾(disaster)"; "人"(or"亻")with a "戈" means "伐"—to chop; a man lying in bed in a house "宿" means "to live at".

4) Pictophnetic characters(形声) consist of meanings components and pronunciation components. Pictophnetic characters have lots of productive advantages, better than another formation method. Among which is the unifying of a combination of form and meaning. such as "月+要=腰; 月+干=肝; 月+土=肚"Among the above characters,"要","干" and "土" indicates the pronunciation of the characters; "月" indicates human or animal body parts and organs, it is a picture-radical. According to statistics, Pictophonetic Characters account for about 90% of Chinese characters. There are many Chinese characters with the same pronunciation, so it is necessary to indicate the meaning of the Chinese character by the meanings components.

4, Practice

Now, we know the rules of Chinese Characters, and we will continue to recall these rules in future learning. In addition, the proper understanding of the origin of Chinese Characters can help us remember and increase our interest in learning.

"好" good: A woman holds a child, and a new life is born, which is, of course, considered a good thing.

"牢" prison: A cow in a barn, living in a prison of no freedom.

When practicing writing Chinese Characters, we can use some tools to help us understand the Strokes by Strokes of Chinese Characters, which is very helpful for us to improve the writing ability of Chinese Characters.

Last, if you are interested in art, you can practice Chinese calligraphy, writing Chinese Characters is just likes drawing.





10. How to learn Chinese grammar

Chinese grammar is very simple, no verb change, no plural Nouns, no gender of Nouns, etc. However, without some knowledge of grammar, it is difficult to improve our Chinese to a higher level.

1, The difference between Chinese grammar and English grammar.

- 1) English grammar emphasizes structure, while Chinese grammar emphasizes semantics.
- 2) As far as the structure of the sentence, English languages governed by the rule of law. Chinese language governed by people.
- 3) The relationship between sentences is clear by tense, comma and juxtaposition "and". The Chinese translation is obviously a simple narration, and the relationship between sentences is fully expressed through the semantics of the sentence.
- 4) English has many passive, while Chinese has many initiatives. English is preferred in a passive sentence, especially in science and technology. Although there are Chinese words ("被" "由") means the action is passive, but this kind of expression is far from English passive sentence is so common. So in English, passive sentences are often translated into initiative sentences when translated into Chinese.
- 5) The result is often placed in front of the sentence in English grammar, while Chinese is the opposite. In the expression of logical thinking, English often writes the judgment or conclusion in front of the sentence and put the fact or the description behind, namely, the topic words are in front. While Chinese is often written from the reason to result, from hypothesis to inference, from fact to conclusion, that is, the topic words is in behind.

2, Characteristics of Chinese grammar

- 1) Less morphological changes in Chinese grammar

The phenomenon of morphological change exists in Chinese, but very few. Some words have the morphological changes, but not all occasions are suitable. Such as:

- i) The verb in Chinese does not change with a person, sex, number or time. Eg, I am a student. You are a student. In Chinese, there is no "am" and "are", just always is "是 am/is/are". No matter the first, second, third person, or singular or plural, the verb "是" has no effect.
- ii) Verbs, pronouns do not change with the position change in a sentence





in Chinese grammar.

Eg. "research", "researched", "researching", "has been researching". No matter whether the subject, the predicate, the object, or the modifier of the word "research" in the sentence, there is no change in morphology, just always is "研究 research/researched/researching"

2) Word order and empty words are important in Chinese grammar

Since morphological changes are very few in Chinese grammar, the word order and empty words are very important in Chinese grammar.

i) First of all, the word order is different and the meaning of the expression is different. eg "不很好 not very good" and "很不好 very bad".

ii) Second, the meaning is completely different with the use of empty words or not, and with different empty words. Eg, "看书 look a book" and "看的书 the book of reading"

3) Many quantifiers in Chinese grammar

Different things come with different quantifiers. Eg

个 gè 一个 (苹果) yí gè (píng guǒ) An apple

把 bǎ 一把 (椅子) yí bǎ (yǐ zi) A chair

套 tà 一套 (西装) yí tà (xī zhuāng) A suit

张 zhāng 一张 (机票) yí zhāng (jī piào) A ticket

条 tiáo 一条 (毯子) yí tiáo (tǎn zi) A blanket

位 wèi 一位 (乘客) yí wèi (chéng kè) A passenger

本 běn 一本 (书) yí běn (shū) A book

支 zhī 一支 (笔) yí zhī (bǐ) A pen

根 gēn 一根 (黄瓜) yí gēn (huáng guā) A cucumber

双 shuāng 一双 (鞋) yí shuāng (xié) A pair of shoes

3, how to learn Chinese grammar?

As a result of the above description, we know that to learn Chinese grammar well, we must emphasize the study of word order, empty words, and quantifiers. There are some learning skills:

1) Learning Chinese grammar is not just do some exercise and remember many rules of grammar, while pay attention to in the real context, long difficult sentences analysis, and text reading appreciation, it is to use grammar in speaking and writing to provide our real communicative





competence.

2) Sentence structure analysis is very important in learning Chinese grammar, sentence structure analysis cannot only deepen the understanding of grammar knowledge, and also can effectively improve our reading comprehension and writing skills.

3) The basic grammar must be used skillfully because all the long and difficult sentences are based on basic grammar.

4) Learning grammar must carefully listen to the teacher's analysis and explanation in class, don't spend most of the time studying Chinese grammar books.

5) Create a wrong question bank, organize it from the beginning, analyze the problems we have done wrong in practice, in the exam, or guess the right questions, and learn new things in the wrong set.

6) Chinese learning is inseparable from a lot of memory. It is better to memorize 3~5 sentences every day, and review often and to consolidate knowledge.

11. How to Chinese proficiency test

The exam helps us to review the knowledge and is also a proof of our Chinese proficiency. Now, there is three major Chinese level test, held in China, USA and South Korean.

China

Chinese Proficiency Test (HSK), an international standardized test of Chinese language proficiency, assesses non-native Chinese speakers' abilities in using the Chinese language in their daily, academic and professional lives. HSK consists of six levels, namely HSK (level I), HSK (level II), HSK (level III), HSK (level IV), HSK (level V), and HSK (level VI).

HSK Speaking Test (HSKK) assesses the test takers' oral Chinese abilities. HSKK consists of three levels, HSKK (Primary level), HSKK (Intermediate level) and HSKK (Advanced level). HSKK is conducted in the form of audio recording.

Youth Chinese Test (YCT), an international standardized test of Chinese language proficiency, assesses the primary and middle school students' abilities to use Chinese as a second language in their daily and academic lives. YCT is divided into writing and speaking tests, which are independent of each other. The writing test consists of four levels, namely, YCT (level I), YCT (level II), YCT (level III), and YCT (level IV). The speaking





test consists of two levels, YCT Speaking (Primary Level) and YCT Speaking (Intermediate Level).

Business Chinese Test (BCT), an international standardized test of Chinese language proficiency, assesses non-native Chinese speakers' abilities to use the Chinese language in real business or common working environments. BCT is divided into writing and oral tests, which are independent of each other. The writing test consists of two levels, namely, BCT (A) and BCT (B). BCT (Oral iBT) are Computer Adaptive Test (CAT) and conducted via the Internet.

USA

OPIc (Oral Proficiency Interview-computer), OPIc is a foreign language level oral test organized by the American Foreign Language Teaching Committee (ACTFL), which aims to examine the ability of foreign language learners to communicate effectively in a real-life context and to use language appropriately. Including English, Spanish, Russian, Japanese, Korean and other languages tested. LTI is an exclusive test license by ACTFL, each year, the number of LTI candidates is over 500,000.

Currently, the ACTFL test is used by academics, government agencies and enterprises from around the world and used in admission examination, student evaluation, project evaluation, professional certification, recruitment, and promotion qualification determination. In the United States, more than 20 states require teachers to use the spoken/written test scores as a basis for verbal proficiency. Include NASA, ebay, Paypal, at&t, Samsung, Hyundai, Ito Japan, Hitachi, Mitsubishi, the United States HSBC, Nord Anglia Education and More than 3,000 companies worldwide recognized the ACTFL test

OPIc is an iBT-based adaptive test, the test questions presented by well-designed computer program control, the test system according to the candidate's interest, experience and language ability to make the appropriate adjustments, has interaction and affinity characteristics.

South Korean

TSC (Test of Spoken Chinese), In order to carry out cultural exchange with China and communicate effectively with Chinese. Under the leadership OF YMB, the largest language institute in South Korea, the TEST OF SPOKEN CHINESE is started. Today, most of South Korea's big companies are demanding that employees in China pass the TSC test.





12. How to learn Chinese in China

To learn Chinese in China is also a very good choice, to devote all of my time to learning Chinese, which can improve greatly in 1 ~ 2 years. It is a good combination of learning and practices the Chinese language. So how do you learn Chinese in China?

Some people want to just learn the Chinese language, while other also want to get a diploma in university.

1, Only for the Chinese language

In the north of China, the Mandarin pronunciation in some cities is very standard, such as Beijing, Harbin, and Dalian. As well, we can choose some southern cities, to experience different Chinese folk customs, such as Changsha, Hangzhou, and Shanghai. At the same time, some local dialects are a challenge to us, and local people do not speak Mandarin, but they can understand Mandarin.

Learn Chinese in China with a long-term plan, we must enroll in college or university because the only accredited university has the authority to apply for a student visa. If we go to some training center, they can only help us apply for short-term travel visa 3 months, this is very inconvenient to a long-term study.

As to how to choose a university, we can consider the cost, characteristics and so on.

2, And for a university diploma

Some foreign friends want to get a diploma in China's university, not only to learn Chinese well. In this case, it also has first 1 year to learn the language and then take the university entrance examination. Therefore, the university requires HSK test results. The more famous the university is, the higher the requirement of HSK is. Generally speaking, it is required to be above HSK4 level, we can refer to the admission requirements of the university.

Major courses in Chinese universities are major in literature, economics, medicine and public relations for foreign people.

In addition, we can apply for the scholarship of the university. It is not difficult to apply for a scholarship, which is mainly based on the score of the entrance examination. About 60 percent of international students get the scholarships.

At the same time, we can apply for the Chinese government scholarship, but only some of the special projects or the special country students, we need to know these details information ahead of time.





3, Chinese Government Scholarship Programs

Application: <http://www.campuschina.org>

1. Bilateral Program

This includes full or partial scholarships in accordance with the educational exchange agreements or consensus between the Chinese government and governments of other countries, institutions, universities or international organizations. It supports undergraduate students, graduate students, general scholars and senior scholars.

Applicants shall apply to the dispatching authorities for overseas study of their home countries.

2. Chinese University Program

This is a full scholarship for designated Chinese universities and certain provincial education offices in specific provinces or autonomous regions to recruit outstanding international students for graduate studies in China. It only supports undergraduates, postgraduate students, and doctoral students.

Applicants shall apply to the designated Chinese universities undertaking this program.

3. Great Wall Program

This is a full scholarship for the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) to sponsor students and scholars in developing countries to study and research in China. It only supports general scholars and senior scholars.

Applicants shall apply to the National Commissions for UNESCO in their home countries.

4. EU Program

This is a full scholarship to encourage students from EU member countries to study and research in China in order to promote mutual understanding between China and EU members. It supports undergraduate students, graduate students, general scholars and senior scholars.

Applicants shall apply to the Office for Education and Culture, Mission of the P. R. China to the European Union.

5. AUN Program

This is a full scholarship for the ASEAN University Network (AUN) to sponsor students, teachers and scholars from ASEAN member nations to study in China and to enhance the academic exchange and mutual





understanding between China and ASEAN members. It only supports graduates.

Applicants shall apply to AUN Secretariat.

6. PIF Program

This is a full scholarship to sponsor students from Pacific island countries to study in China. It supports undergraduates, graduates, general scholars and senior scholars.

Applicants shall apply to Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) Secretariat.

7. WMO Program

This is a scholarship for the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) to sponsor international students to study and conduct research in meteorology, hydrology, and water resources supervision and management in China. It only supports undergraduates and graduates.

Applicants shall apply to WMO.

4, Benefit learn Chinese in China

The benefit of coming to China to learn Chinese is to experience how to use the Chinese language in a real environment and also to learn Chinese culture.

To learn a language, if we don't learn the culture of the language, we can't learn the language well, because language comes from culture and reflects culture. Since then, if we learning in China, we must make more Chinese friends, take part in activities organized by Chinese people, and travel in China extensively.

Another, it is very safe in China, a person walking in the street in the middle of the night should not worry, but still should pay attention to local customs, avoid some misunderstanding and embarrassment.

Wish all of us to learn Chinese easily and make friends happily in China.





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Easy to learn Chinese | Happy to make friends

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